





## THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

London, 20th May.  
The following names appear in the list of honours on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday.

Sir Arthur Hulberton raised to the Peerage.

Sir George Goldie appointed Privy Councillor.

Mr. Henry Tate, Deno of the Tate Collection and Painter Galley, created a Baronet.

Mr. Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Director of the Royal College of Music, created a Knight Bachelor.

General Sir Arthur Fremantle, Governor of Malta, has been created Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

The Major-General of Scinde has been appointed Honorary Colonel in the British Army.

General Rowland General John James Wood Gould, General Edward, General Davis, Major-General Edward and Major-General Viscount Stamford have all appointed Knight Companions of the Bath.

Colonel Macleod, Colonel Settle, Colonel Chalmers, Colonel Stopford, Colonel Birkett, and Surgeon-General Robert Harvey are all appointed Companions of the Bath.

The following names appear in the Gazette:

Officers rendered service in the West African Campaign—Lieutenant Thomas W. W., and James Colvin, Royal Engineers; Lieut.-Colonel Paul, of the Dorsetshires; and Faversham Lawson and Vickery and Piper Findlater receive the Victoria Cross. General Sir William Lockhart is created Grand Cross.

Generals Symons, Westcott, Nicholson, Gadsden, Elmes and Meldrum and Surgeon-Colonels are appointed Companions of the Bath. Colonel Charles Sprague, Alander Reid, Charles MacGregor, William Hill, Charles Scott, George Richardson, John Rosenthal, Leonard Christopher, Charles Kitchley, Thomas Goldney, Benjamin Graves, Henry Abbot, Edmund Barrow, Robert Adams, and Harry McRae, Surgeon-Colonel Townend, and Davies and Sanders, Veterinary Surgeon, and Major-General Steer, Bengal, the Maharaja of Baroda, Sir Pratap Singh, of Jodhpur, are all appointed Companions of the Bath. Sir Baden-Powell is promoted to the rank of Major-General Lieutenant-Colonels Henry Dixon and Harry Mathias are appointed Brevet-Camps. Lt. Col. Q. M. S. with the Guards, Brigadier-Colonel Lieutenant-Colonel James Yule, Albert Cunningham, James Thorburn, William Franklin, John Collier, Sirion Travers, Charles Pulley, Arthur Brown and Charles Desvaux are promoted Colonels. Amongst the other honour-gazeted are the following—

Mustapha Felemy Pasha, Egyptian Premier, created Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

Surgeon-Colonel Rogers, Egyptian Sanitary Commissioner, created Knight Commander St. Michael and St. George.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN RAILWAY IN NORTHERN CHINA.

London, 23rd May.

The Times Pekin correspondent telegraphs that the Russo-Chinese Bank has signed a contract to construct a railway from Chinking to Tsingtao. This gives Russia virtual control of the railway from Pekin to Seansi.

DOCT. ARTHUR AND TALIERWAN.

London, 23rd May.

In the House of Commons, to-night Mr. Gavan, replying to a question, said that the notification issued by the Russian Consul at Pekin that no foreigners will be permitted at Post Arthur and Taliowan without their passports being vised by him, was issued without the knowledge of the Russian Government, which has ordered its Russian representative at Pekin to withdraw it.

THE PLAGUE TROUBLES IN CALCUTTA.

Calcutta, 21st May.

All is quiet here. There are no fresh cases, but one death has occurred, viz. that of the Rev. Dr. L. C. D. Williams, of the Methodist Church.

Humanitatis and antipodes has taken place consequent on the arrest of a native in connection with the recent ambulance disturbance and the assault on Dr. Rose. The men are asserting that their comrades have been severely dealt with, and fearing similar treatment themselves, have struck work. The Chairman of the Corporation is arranging to bring in a native who has been in the service of the city managing his business in an unbroken state for two days, and the outlook is dangerous.

THE INDIAN CURRENCY QUESTION.

Singapore, 20th May.

The Finance Committee has commenced its sitting at the no. and several references have already been made by telegram to the Government here for further information upon doubtful points.

Calcutta, 20th May.

The following letter has been circulated to the members of the Chamber of Commerce of Wit, in reference to the various proposals of the Finance Committee, of which were submitted to the Finance Committee of the Chamber for report. The Committee has now submitted its report in the following terms:—(1) This Committee views with alarm the recommendation put forward by the Government of India in its Dispatch to the Secretary of State of the 1st March, last, that the Government of India should issue a gold rupee to shatter the whole fabric of Indian trade. (2) While the object of the Government's policy is presumably to secure a fixity of exchange, the scheme brought forward offers no guarantee whatever as to the future convertibility of rupees, and will consequently fail to impress that confidence in the future of exchange which is necessary to mitigate the effects of a disaster, any further enforced depreciation cannot fail to shatter the whole fabric of Indian trade. (3) The object of the Government's policy is presumably to secure a fixity of exchange, the scheme brought forward offers no guarantee whatever as to the future convertibility of rupees, and will consequently fail to impress that confidence in the future of exchange which is necessary to mitigate the effects of a disaster, any further enforced depreciation cannot fail to shatter the whole fabric of Indian trade. (4) In the opinion of the Committee, a gold rupee is entirely unsuited to the requirements of India. (5) However, in view of the fact that the Government desire to have the progress of foreign trade that there should be a fixity of exchange, it is equally necessary that the supply of currency should be automatically responsive to the current requirements of trade. (6) Apart from the foregoing considerations, the Committee is of the opinion that the cost of measures proposed by Government would be greater than it estimates, that the period of transition would be indefinitely prolonged, and that the result would be for many years, at least, rather to diminish than strengthen the confidence in the minds of English investors. The Committee directs me to inform the members that it is generally agreed in regard with the Report of the Finance Committee, but before any further action or advice of the Government of India in connection with such an important matter as a change in the currency system of the country, it will be good to receive the opinions of members of the proposals contained in the despatch from the Government of India. As it is important that the views of the Committee should be placed before the Government of India at the earliest possible moment, I shall be obliged by a right to this circular letter not later than Saturday, the 28th May current.

THE STEAMER "CHINA."

Bomber, 20th May.

An Advoe correspondent by this mail says that the Marine Court of Inquiry had assembled to inquire into the strands of the steamer "China" of Azores point, but had not concluded its sittings. On Saturday the steamer was indisposed, so the proceedings were deferred. Monday, the 25th, the Court consists of the General Commanding the District, the Port Officer, and the Commander of the Coast Guard. Captain de Horne and the officers of the China, with the two engineers on duty at the time of the collision, are at Aden in connection with the enquiry.

The steamer lies in the same place as before, with her port side towards the shore. A part of the stern and the forehold are gone, in by the rocks to the extent of three to four feet right along. The after end of the reserve hold and the boilers are slightly thrown up. From forward stockholts some of the bulkheads have caused a large hole in the hull, through which water has entered. The stern is broken, and the rudder is gone. The rest of the vessel broke up, and the remains are now practically submerged and will not be visible for some time. The hull is still intact, and the driving machinery at the stern is slightly damaged, but the engine is still working. The weather is fine, small straits will afford shelter.

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